

Legal Notice: Opportunity to Comment
Loveland Dry Gulch Snowcat Tours
USDA Forest Service
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests & Pawnee National Grassland
Clear Creek Ranger District
Clear Creek County, Colorado

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests & Pawnee National Grassland is inviting public comment and participation in an environmental analysis to provide guided snowcat tours within and directly adjacent to Loveland Ski Area. The project area is located in Clear Creek County, Colorado in the upper reaches of the Dry Gulch Area. The legal description is T5S, R76W, Section 28.

The operation would consist of establishing three temporary (over-snow) snowcat routes to allow the snowcat to access drop-off and pick-up points for customers skiing on guided tours. There would be approximately 5-7 runs per trip, with total runs of 160-224 per day. The project area consists of approximately 580 acres and the total length of snowcat routes within the project area would be approximately 2.5 miles, with 1.8 miles within the Special Use Permit boundary and 0.7 miles outside of the boundary. Total snow compaction from the snowcat routes would be approximately three acres, with additional compaction from ski and snowboard use. Avalanche mitigation would be achieved by hand tossed charges below the mountain ridgeline.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and subject to the objection process described in 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The Forest Service is combining scoping with the legal notice and opportunity to comment, consistent with §218.24. The public is encouraged to provide specific written comments (§218.2) on this proposal, including supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. Specific written comments should be within the scope of and have a direct relationship to the proposed action.

The Responsible Official for this project is the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor, Monte Williams. Details about the project can be found online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54196>. Additional information regarding this proposal can be obtained from Deb Ekstrand, 303-567-3024 or dekstrand@fs.fed.us.

Written comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in The Coloradoan. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Only those who submit timely and specific written comments will have eligibility to file an objection under §218.8. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunity. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in §218.25(a)(3), including that each individual or representative from each entity submitting written comments must provide the name and postal address of the individual or entity submitting the comment, and either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Names, contact information, and the comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Written, facsimile, or electronic comments concerning this project will be accepted. Written comments should be submitted to Loveland Dry Gulch Project at Clear Creek Ranger District, PO Box 3307, Idaho Springs, CO 80452. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to comments-rocky-mountain-arapaho-roosevelt-clear-creek@fs.fed.us or via facsimile to 303-567-3021.

This legal notice also serves to notify and invite public comment on the proposal as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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